Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid-lipid particle for introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, said particle comprising a cationic lipid, a non-cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid that inhibits aggregations of particles, and a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is encapsulated in the lipid of said particle and is resistant in aqueous solution to degradation with a nuclease.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said particle is substantially non-toxic.

45. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said particle has a median diameter of less than about 150 nm.

46. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said cationic lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of N,N-dioleyl-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide (DDAB), N-(1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-(2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture of two or more of the above.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim ~~47~~42, wherein said non-cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of DOPE, POPC, and EPC.

49. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

50. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49, wherein said PEG-lipid comprises from 1% to about 15% of the lipid present in said particle.

51. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

52. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51, wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 8 carbon atoms.

53. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51, wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 14 carbon atoms.

54. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51, wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 20 carbon atoms.

55. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-phosphatidylethanolamine.

56. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 5 mg nucleic acid per mmol lipid.

57. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 20 mg nucleic acid per mmol lipid.

58. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 40 mg nucleic per mmol lipid.

59. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

60. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.

61. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide.

62. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a ribozyme.

63. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said cationic lipid comprises 50% or less of the lipid present in said particle.

64. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said cationic lipid comprises from an amount greater than 0% to about 20% of the lipid present in said particle.

65. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid component of said particle is substantially not degraded after exposure of said particle to a nuclease at 37°C for 20 minutes.

66. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid component of said particle is substantially not degraded after incubation of said particle in serum at 37°C for 30 minutes.

67. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein more than 10% of a plurality of such particles are present in plasma one hour after intravenous administration.

68. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein transformation of cells by said particle at a site distal to the site of administration is detectable for at least four days after intravenous injection.

69. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising a cationic lipid, a non-cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid that inhibits aggregation of particles, and a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is encapsulated in the lipid of said particle and is resistant in aqueous solution to degradation with a nuclease.

70. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dioleyl-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide (DDAB), N-1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-(2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture of two or more of the above.

71. (Canceled).

72. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~71~~69, wherein said non-cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of DOPE, POPC, and EPC.

73. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

74. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 73, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

75. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, an antisense oligonucleotide, and a ribozyme.

76. (New) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is an oligonucleotide.

77. (New) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is RNA.

78. (New) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a double-stranded RNA.

79. (New) The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a DNA-RNA hybrid.